

City Council Meeting
10 N. Public Square
August 23, 2016
6:30 P.M.

I. Opening Meeting

The City Council met in Regular Session with Matt Santini, Mayor presiding and the following present: Kari Hodge, Council Member Ward One; Jayce Stepp, Council Member Ward Two; Louis Tonsmeire, Sr., Council Member Ward Three; Lindsey McDaniel Council Member Ward Four; Dianne Tate, Council Member Ward Five; Taff Wren, Council Member Ward Six; Sam Grove, City Manager; Connie Keeling, City Clerk and Keith Lovell, Assistant City Attorney. David Archer, City Attorney was absent.

II. Regular Agenda

A. Public Hearing

1. City of Cartersville M & O Property Tax Millage Rate

Tom Rhinehart, Finance Director stated that the property taxes received from the Cartersville M&O property taxes are used for the general city government operations, which include police, fire, recreation, public works, etc. The proposed 2016 millage rate of 2.38 mills is considered to be above the 2016 rollback rate of 1.358 mills. As a result, the city is required to hold three public hearings for the public to voice their opinions about the tax increase. This is the third of these required meetings, and brings the city into compliance with state regulations. Mr. Rhinehart recommended approval of the Cartersville M&O property tax millage rate of 2.38 mills for 2016.

Mayor Santini opened the floor for a public hearing. With no comments Mayor Santini closed the public hearing.

A motion to approve the Cartersville M&O property tax millage rate of 2.38 mills for 2016 was made by Council Member Tonsmeire and seconded by Council Member Tate. Motion failed. Vote 2-3 with Council Members Wren, McDaniel, and Hodge voting against

2. City School System Millage Rate Set at 16.546 Mills

Tom Rhinehart, Finance Director stated that the Cartersville City School System has recommended to their Board to lower the school system's 2016 millage rate to 16.546 mills. This is the rollback rate for 2016. The City Council approves the recommended tax millage rate for city residents where all the property taxes collected are used by the Cartersville City School System. Mr. Rhinehart recommended approval of the Cartersville City School System property tax millage rate of 16.546 mills for 2016.

A motion to approve the Cartersville City School System property tax millage rate of

16.546 mills for 2016 was made by Council Member Tonsmeire and seconded by Council Member Tate. Motion carried unanimously. Vote 5-0

3. Cartersville Business Improvement District Property Tax Millage to be set at 2.368 Mills for 2016

Tom Rhinehart, Finance Director stated that the Cartersville Business Improvement District (BID) is made up of the Downtown Cartersville Business District. These business owners have been self-assessing a property tax over the past several years to raise funds for the downtown area. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) works with the local businesses to use the funds to improve the downtown area. DDA requests the Council's approval to lower the BID's property tax millage to 2.368 mills, which is the 2016 rollback rate. Mr. Rhinehart recommended approval of the Cartersville Business Improvement District property tax millage of 2.368 mills for 2016.

A motion to approve the Cartersville Business Improvement District property tax millage of 2.368 mills for 2016 was made by Council Member Tate and seconded by Council Member Tonsmeire. Motion carried unanimously. Vote 5-0

4. Cartersville GO Recreation Bond Property Tax Millage Rate to be set at 1.083 Mills for 2016

Tom Rhinehart, Finance Director stated that the citizens of Cartersville approved a referendum in November of 2014 authorizing the city to issue bonds to be used to pay for renovations and improvements to the parks and recreation buildings and properties. The bonds were issued with a ten year pay-back period. In order to make the scheduled bond payments, the city is assessing a property tax millage of 1.083 mills (rollback rate) for 2016, also approved by the citizens. The millage rate for this will fluctuate over the ten years and will need to be set with a millage rate large enough to cover the semi-annual payments. Mr. Rhinehart recommended approval of the Cartersville GO Recreation Bond tax millage rate of 1.083 mills for 2016.

A motion to approve the Cartersville GO Recreation Bond tax millage rate of 1.083 mills for 2016 was made by Council Member Tonsmeire and seconded by Council Member Wren. Motion carried unanimously. Vote 5-0

Keith Lovell, Assistant City Attorney stated that since it is a three week process to pass a millage rate one would need to be set at this time to avoid additional expense in billing and advertising. Mr. Grove stated that this is roughly a \$1million shortfall in the budget and since the budget had already been passed direction would be necessary as to where the money should come from.

Tom Rhinehart, Finance Director went through the process for determining the millage rate and the projects that will be affected by this shortfall.

(Council Member Stepp had been delayed and arrived at the meeting.)

A motion to approve the Cartersville M&O property tax millage rate of 2.38 mills for 2016 was made by Council Member Stepp and seconded by Council Member Tonsmeire. Motion tied. Vote 3-3 with Council Members Wren, McDaniel, and Hodge voting against. The Mayor voted in favor of the motion making the Vote 4-3.

After announcements a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Stepp and needing no second. Motion carried unanimously. Vote 6-0

Meeting Adjourned

/s/ _____
Matthew J. Santini
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Connie Keeling
City Clerk